

Press-Herald

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The Washington Piper

The proposal that a portion of federal income tax revenues be returned to the states, so that they can do needed things for themselves instead of having to look to Washington for help, isn't likely to get anywhere in the foreseeable future. It is a highly complex and controversial matter.

But the mere fact that so revolutionary an idea is urged by responsible people is in itself a biting commentary on what has happened to the American system of government.

The founding fathers established a central government of severely limited powers. It was to do what only a central government could adequately do, such as to provide for the national defense. The states and local governments were strong and independent entities, entrusted to meet the varying wants, needs and problems of their populations.

The formal structure of state and local government remains. But the foundation has been largely whittled away by legislative acts, by administrative decisions, and by judicial interpretations. In more areas of our national life, Washington calls the tune, and all must dance to it.

This is costly in dollars—the vast administrative bureaucracy must be paid. It is costly in a more important coin—that of diminished or destroyed state and local rights, obligations, responsibilities, and power of decision. Unless a halt is called, the end result can only be a federal welfare state in which the individual is only a number and all power is concentrated at the top.

Others Say:

A Remarkable Year

John A. Conway contributed an impressive article to the December issue of *The Exchange Magazine*, the monthly publication of the New York Stock Exchange. It details the economic performance that distinguished 1964.

It is a dazzling story of materials advances. Just about every index showed gains. To list a few, Mr. Conway tells us that even before the year-end checks were written, corporation dividends were running at a \$20 billion-a-year-clip, up \$2 billion from 1963. Personal income approached the half-a-trillion mark. The gross national income was in the neighborhood of \$628 billion, well above early predictions.

So it goes. At the same time, Mr. Conway touched on two worrisome elements. One is the possibility of more inflation. The other is that unemployment, holding at 5.2 per cent of the work force, remains too high.

These problems aside, 1964 was a remarkable year in which our economic system—whether we call it capitalism, free enterprise, or anything else—demonstrated its vast vigor, imagination, will-to-progress and ability to serve. The task ahead will be to protect and nurture that system.—*Industrial News Review*

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

Redwood Trees And Moderation

In most fields of human endeavor—not just politics—the course of moderation tends to be honored mostly in the breach.

In literature, in an unbelievably short space of time, we have swung from the substitution of puritanical asterisks for everyday oaths to unbridled license.

Just a few short decades ago, our natural resources were being destroyed and wasted with never a thought for the future. Today, the pendulum has swung to such an extreme that fish, trees, ducks, and old Victorian row houses are now regarded as more important than people.

Take the case of California's coast redwoods, one of the nation's most beautiful and precious natural resources. In the old days, the timber barons hewed them down with reckless abandon. Their more enlightened successors began to develop timbering methods that looked to a sustained yield. Conservation groups raised funds to set aside virgin stands for state parks.

Moderation was the order of the day, with an admirable balance struck between the preservation of large acreages of age-old groves for the public enjoyment and the continuation of a thriving, job-producing timber industry.

Then the State of California upset the applecart, by slashing through some of the very parks that had been acquired through public sub-

scription, in order to build freeways. In reaction, alarmed conservationists are supporting grandiose parks that would remove most of the redwood country from private ownership.

Naturally, the communities in the affected areas are alarmed at the threat to their economy. But more interestingly, a University of California ecologist, D. W. Cooper, has charged:

"Those misguided people who propose to put the California redwoods behind the fences of a national park are asking the nation, as a whole, to watch the species become extinct."

According to Cooper, "we see hardwoods slowly replacing the redwoods when we view an old-growth redwood grove which is being preserved. These broad-leaf plants, mostly Tan Oak, Madrone, California Laurel and Chinquapin, inch their way up and are standing ready to fill in the gaps as soon as one of the old redwood trees falls out."

Cooper points out that before man's appearance in the forest, fire was the principal agent in the thinning process. But now, "the one thing which will perpetuate the redwoods is the cutting of selected trees before they die of old age, opening up the old-growth forest so the sun can get to the forest floor."

Apparently, extremism in the pursuit of conservation is no virtue.



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Our Two-Pronged Attack On Enemies of Freedom

About 1947, when the Cold War was well under way, we in America acquired two world ideas which seemed to be interlocked, but were not.

They were: (1) as nobody else is capable of it, we must protect the non-Communist world against Communist revolution; (2) we must thereupon aid the non-Communist world to establish and maintain freedom.

We pursued this double aim at first in western Europe and there it worked. It worked because western Europe had been free as long as we had, and understood how to control its Communist minorities, that they might not usurp freedom in the chaotic aftermath of Hitler's war.

But when we would pursue the double aim in other and more backward areas of the world, we met failure after failure, and indeed excepting Japan (a special case), we have not yet had a substantial success.

Taking Japan first, our success there was due to the reality that we, almost alone, defeated Japan, and were therefore able to bar the massive intervention of the Soviet Union in peace and recovery.

Our monetary aid perhaps prevented Communist takeover in Greece, Turkey, and India, but these countries already had images of self-government, if not freedom. So in Korea our first aim succeeded—we prevented a Communist occupation of the peninsula. But we could not establish freedom and self-government in South Korea.

Again in Indochina, John Foster Dulles endeavored to take up the torch of French colonialism, and convert it to freedom. His aim (1) was a standoff, and still is, and his aim (2) freedom, hasn't come off yet, and gives no promise of coming off soon.

With our money and through the United Nations

we tried to effect an orderly development of the new African nations. But these nations are not ready for self-government, and neither aim (1) nor aim (2) is in sight. We, the Americans, are at the edge of such a quicksand there that the mere rescue of a few hundred white hostages is branded "imperialist intervention."

The cold reality is that in east Asia, government has always been by the strong, and the masses do not understand government by charter and compromise. But this is true also in some parts of Latin America, and in the greater part of Africa.

So we find ourselves exasperated around the globe by people we are trying to help. Some of us feel hurt and wonder what we have done to deserve this. A good wonder, provided we get to the root of it, and wonder if our double-barreled aim was ever logical or realistic in the first place.

BOOKS by William Hogan

About Travelers: a Lad Shanghaied, Some Others

In "The Great Chinese Travelers," Jeannette Mirsky presents an anthology of little-known Chinese travel journals. Most are by early wanderers of Bactria, Genghis Khan's court, or the Cambodia of Angkor. But there is nothing, for example, on the voyage of the junk Keying to America at the time of the Gold Rush, nor of the Cantonese '49ers who sailed from China's coast toward California's supposed riches.

There is one chapter on the 18th Century, and one on the 19th. The latter includes all too little of a book describing the land so poetically called "Hua-Ch'i in Cantonese, or 'Flowery Flag,'" which meant the U.S.A. Of our Far West, the visitor Hsu Chi-yu had this description: "The uncultivated region in the West is all occupied by the aborigines. Whenever new territory is to be opened, at first hunters are employed to kill the bears, deer and wild oxen (i.e., buffalo) and then the unemployed people are allowed to cultivate the land." (Pantheon; \$5.95).

"Kawoo of Alaska," by Gano E. Senter, an unprepossessing and disorganized little volume, bears a fabulous story and should be snapped up by collectors of Pacific maritime history. The author, as a boy of 14 (1905), was shanghaied by San Francisco's notorious Shanghai Brown and shipped aboard the wind jammer Agenor, bound for Alaska and salmon. If anyone still doubts how real were the Barbary Coast days of only 60 years ago (as chronicled in Richard H. Dillon's "Shanghaiing Days"), let him read Senter. The lad was so sick of the buccoisism of master and mates he was ready to jump ship even in an area held by hostile Indians. Escape he did to be more or less enslaved by the wild Kake Tlingitis. (Sage Books; \$3.50).

"Run to the Lee," by Kenneth F. Brooks Jr., is a memoir of the last days of sail in America, specifically of the Baltimore schooners. The Albatross was a 90-foot

topsail schooner which used to haul coal, tobacco and oysters from one Chesapeake port to another. From 1896 to 1918 she was skippered by the author's grand-uncle, John Talbot. This book is a recreation of Uncle John's life and a re-enactment of the Albatross' most exciting voyage when, in a snowstorm in 1904, she lost her mast, ran aground (and got off) and had her crew horsed de combat from violent food poisoning. Somehow Uncle John got the schooner to Solomon's Island, single-handed, and that is the meat of the story. (Norton; \$3.95).

"My Voyage Around the World," by Francesco Carletti, is a translation by Herbert Weinstock of the Florentine merchant's slave trading voyage in 1594. If a somewhat deadpan observer, Carletti wrote a business-like account of his wanderings — Macao, Panama, the Philippines — for the Grand Duke of Tuscany. (Pantheon; \$5).

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AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Limits of Power Key to America's Great System

• The average citizen's idea of government waste is usually money spent in some other area this his own.

• The "opium" of the people today is . . . government-promised security.

• The greatness of the American system is that it limits all power . . . even the power of the majority.

• Vietnam is a tragedy because we allowed a controllable problem to get out of control.

• It is not so much that some nations in the world don't respect us . . . but that we act sometimes as though we didn't respect ourselves.

• Prayer doesn't change anything . . . but the person who prays.

• The most difficult discipline to master is silence in the face of falsehoods and distortions directed at you.

• Two of the most dangerous things we encounter are people who speak with knowledge but little conviction . . . and those who speak with conviction but little knowledge.

• Nothing can function perfectly among imperfect men.

• Mousing free enterprise is not like swallowing it and digesting it.

• There is no better endorsement of a man than to be criticized by his competitors.

• People break their necks to avoid adversity . . . and yet adversity often proves a blessing in disguise.

• Parents appear too scared of their children . . . children too scared of the future . . . school authorities too scared to enforce discipline . . . politicians too scared to reveal the truth. Too many people are just plumb scared.

• Crowds make us feel good. We lose our importance in them.

• There is not too much difference in people. It's their habits and self control that make them different.

• Nothing is so absolutely believed as that which so little is known about.

• Ambition and suspicion go together.

• Almost any kind of fear is a sign of faithlessness.

• The miracle of listening always pays off.

• All politicians represent some part of the citizen's feeling. This is why the people are never free of some responsibility for whatever happens.

• The wronged who forgives exposes the wrong doer.

• Coexistence with communism. No fox howls just before he pounces on the lamb.

• We often covet most the thing we lost . . . than the better thing we found.

• The best love is that which is given without strings.

• When you think you have arrived . . . you begin to decline.

• Initiative means that you are ready for the chance that may never come.

• Proliferate parents speak of the population explosion as if they had nothing to do with it.

• Paradise is any place you really like to be.

• It's hard for us to believe that nature had intended for tobacco to be smoked . . . or for dope to become addiction.

• The greatest obituary of

our generation is to say to the next: We have always done it this way.

• The man who doesn't want anything to do with politics because it's crooked . . . has a lot more to do with crooked politics than he thinks.

• The mark of a man is not to leave it to luck.

• When man enters any contest, he should fight to the wire, as though there was no chance to lose it.

• It's uncommon men who make an uncommon nation.

• Society offers every man his choice of success, or mediocre carefree living. He is never offered both.

• There are few arguments and few wars in which one side is wholly in the wrong.

Our Man Hoppe

Nobody Takes Voting Cake

By Arthur Hoppe

The results of last November's election have finally been tabulated. And just in the nick of time, too. For the presidential inauguration is only hours away. And all of us, you can be sure, are eager to know who is going to be inaugurated.

The result: Mr. Lyndon Johnson, 37.8 per cent; Mr. Barry Goldwater, 23.9 per cent; Others, 0.3 per cent; and Nobody, 38.0 per cent.

The news touched off a wild celebration down at Nobody for President Headquarters, where Nobody's loyal campaign workers had been waiting patiently for the past two months for the stay-at-home vote to come in.

The figures were confirmed by Mr. Ed Steiner, Chief Statistician for Nobody. He said the final tabulation showed that of all Americans of voting age, 43,291,734 cast their ballot for Nobody. This gave the winning candidate a narrow margin of 165,501 votes over Mr. Johnson. Mr. Goldwater, with 27,214,989, ran, of course, a poor third.

As expected, Nobody was truly magnanimous in victory. He immediately called in eight of the Nation's top reporters, all of whom were equally flattered. And with a confident smile playing across his featureless face explained gently that he would "govern by consensus."

"As a deep-down Conservative," he said, "I hope to increase the confidence the business community has shown in me. At the same time, rest assured that I will press forward with every Liberal fiber in my body to achieve the goals of organized labor."

"I also, of course, pledge lower taxes, increased Government spending and a balanced budget. Our fighting men will fight for peace all over the world. At the drop of a hat. At home, we shall strive to restore good old American individual initiative through the welfare state. In short, gentlemen, I am proposing a vigorous program of limited action which should appeal to my fellow Moderates everywhere."

And right away, the winning candidate achieved his first consensus. "Nobody," all the reporters agreed, "can be all things to all men."

"What would you wear to your inauguration, sir?" inquired one reporter as the others chuckled! For this, indeed, is a sore subject.

"A compromise, of course," replied Nobody with dignity. "I will wear ordinary suit pants to show my ordinariness with an imported silk morning coat to symbolize The Upper Crust—that being the name I have given to my Administration, during which we'll all get rich. Which reminds me: I do want to congratulate Mr. Johnson on his fair, although inadequate, campaign. And I hope he can overcome his innate humility and accept from me the high position for which he is so eminently qualified—the Vice Presidency."

The reporters, mindful of the free champagne flowing at the victory celebration outside, rose to go. Nobody stopped them.

"I almost forgot," he said. "It's customary for the winner to address a few words to those responsible for his victory. And so, to those 43,291,734 Americans who exercised their citizenship last November by staying home from the polls, let me just say from the bottom of my heart: 'Nobody thanks you.'"

Morning Report:

At last count there were 826,237,979 people who were trying to get their hands on an American passport: But still Liz Taylor-Hilton-Wilding-Todd-Fisher-Burton wants to get rid of hers. This doesn't mean she is anti-American or even pro-British.

Also she is no tax-dodger. After all, income taxes in her bracket are higher over there than here.

The plain fact is that Liz goes all out for her husband, no matter who he is. She turned spoiled when she was married to Nicky Hilton, worldish for Michael Wilding, Jewish for Mike Todd, pathetic for Eddie Fisher, and now British for Richard Burton. Liz is a born wife.

Abe Mellinkoff

Quote

This flood is the worst disaster since I took office. —Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

I would like to add four letters to Uncle Sam's alphabet soup: MOOB. Mind Our Own Business. —Clifford German, Corona del Mar.

There's nothing wrong with New Year's resolutions except that New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are not really the best time to start cutting off everything and turning over new leaves. —Tom Barbour, airline executive.

President Eisenhower's vacations and golf games elicited much critical comment; but when it seems Mr. Johnson spends more time in Texas than in Washington, nothing much is said. —Edward J. Bomze, Los Angeles.

Paying alimony is like feeding a dead horse. —W. W. Barr, San Francisco.

Why not criticize the Supreme Court? These are mere men who have been appointed, not anointed. —Florence F. Wells, Long Beach.

Why do we insist on promoting the economic and social welfare of nations sworn to bury us when we know from experience it won't make them alter their basic political commitments? —Neil Snyder, Northridge.

